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COMMENT OF THE DAY

TOP LEVEL TALKS

MR Khrushchev's proposal in his speech at a special meeting of the Supreme Soviet that a new high level East-West conference be held in the near future cannot lightly be brushed aside. Any outright rejection will only provide more fuel for the Russian propaganda machine.

But at the present moment it is doubtful if such a meeting could serve a useful purpose as there is too little common ground for top-level discussion with the Soviet leaders on world problems.

On the topical questions of the Middle East and disarmament Soviet policy has been far from encouraging and there seems little likelihood of reconciliation between the opposing sides.

Top priority for the Western leaders is the forthcoming meeting of Nato aimed at strengthening and consolidating the Western alliance. After reaching accord at the Paris meeting next month it might then be possible to consider entering into new negotiations with the Soviet Union.

GOOD FAITH

BUT as the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Menzies, has said a "summit" meeting would have to be one founded on good faith. Mr Menzies added: "In this present state of affairs with an atmosphere of threats, such a meeting would do great harm and would end in failure, producing gloom and pessimism throughout the world."

The West cannot afford a summit meeting to be a failure as it would only be another victory for the Russians in that it would be exploited to the full by the Communist propagandists and drive the "moderate" powers still further into the Russian orbit.

CHINA TRADE

THE Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, Mr F. J. Erroll, appears to be reasonably confident that Britain's trade prospects with China are fairly good and that once the technical details are settled the latter is prepared to buy.

Mr Erroll's confidence is heartening in view of the rather gloomy forecasts made in some quarters prior to and during his visit to China last month.

If the Chinese can be persuaded that British machinery is better than that supplied by the Communist East European bloc over the past few years then the outlook is bright.

However, the economic ties China has with the Communist nations will be hard to break and it may be some time before any firm orders are obtained.

In Saturday's China Mail

In tomorrow's weekend Mail:

- ★ Would the Brussels skyway highway fit Kowloon? — by J. P. Prettejohn.
- ★ America after the Bleep Rocky Beach — by Don Iddon.
- ★ The Massive Adversary — by George Malcolm Thomson.
- ★ News from Britain — by Peter Burgoyne.
- ★ Lucky Jim — by Kingsley Amis.
- ★ Zanies of the Ring — by Gilbert Odd.

Films by Anthony Fuller. Show Business. Books. Records by Ramsden Greig. Gels, Low, Friell, and all your usual features, cartoons, comics, strips, puzzles, in the weekend's favourite package of fun and thinking.

IKE'S ANSWER TO SOVIET LEAD

Try To Combine Free World's Scientists

By STUART HENSLEY

Washington, Nov. 7. President Eisenhower, in a speech to the US tonight, promised to try to organise the combined scientific brains of Nato, and possibly Seato and other anti-Communist alliances, in an effort to overcome the Soviet Union's technological lead and achieve "a giant step toward peace."



President Eisenhower
A giant step toward peace.

Britain's Share Of Australia's Overseas Trade Down

Canberra, Nov. 7. Britain's share of Australia's overseas trade in 1956-57 was almost the lowest for any postwar year, according to figures published today.

Britain provided only 41.3 per cent of Australian imports and took 28.3 per cent of her exports compared with 43.5 per cent of imports and 33.4 per cent of exports in the previous year.

The proportion of imports from Britain was a record low, and since the war the only year in which Australia bought a smaller share from Britain was 1947-48 with 38.9 per cent.

MAIN DECLINES

Australia bought goods worth £A296,251,000 (£237,000,000 sterling) from Britain which took Australian goods worth £A275,500,000 (£220,400,000 sterling) in 1955-56.

Main declines in imports were motor vehicles down £A20 million (£10 million sterling), and textiles and clothing down £A10 million (£5 million sterling).

A rise of £A34 million (£27,200,000 sterling) in wool exports to £A117 million (£93,600,000 sterling) and smaller increases in wheat, flour and sugar were offset by declines in meat, butter, eggs and preserved fruit.—Reuter.

The President emphasised the great values to be derived from intensified international co-operation and promised to ask Congress to give him more freedom to work closely with other nations in military-scientific development.

ACHIEVEMENT

The President cited past scientific achievements of Great Britain, Germany, Italy, France and Japan and deplored "the tragic failure to secure the great benefits that would flow from mutual sharing of appropriate scientific information and effort among friendly countries."

"In the free world, we all have a lot to give and a lot to gain in security through the pooling of scientific effort. Why should we deny to our friends information that we are sure the Soviets already have? Information our friends could use toward our mutual security."

Regarding possible co-operation with Nato and Seato, he said:

"If the necessary authority is granted (by Congress), I shall support, along the lines of the agreement reached with Prime Minister Macmillan, a scientific committee organised within Nato to carry out an enlarged Atlantic effort in research. Similar action in Seato and comparable organisations will be studied. And, to help carry out measures of mutual effort, the Secretary of State will appoint a science adviser to himself and science attaches in appropriate places abroad."

TOWARD PEACE

"What the world needs today even more than a giant leap into outer space is a giant step toward peace. Time and again we have demonstrated our eagerness to take such a step. The President, whose speech was billed in advance as one of his "most important," took an attitude of firm confidence toward Soviet scientific advances which were climaxed by the successful launching of two earth satellites.

He then disclosed that the engineers and scientists of the United States had "solved" the problem of firing a missile into outer space and bringing it back to earth without having it burn up from atmospheric friction.

He noted significantly that this was one of the most difficult obstacles in the path of perfecting an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

The President said the Russian Sputniks were "an achievement of the first importance, and the scientists who brought it about deserve full credit and recognition."

SATELLITES

But he said the earth satellites, in themselves, were no direct threat now. He said their real military significance "lies in the advanced techniques and the competence in military technology they imply" since powerful rockets were needed to launch them.

As for future, the President said, "the US 'could fall behind'—unless we now face up to certain pressing requirements to meet them at once."

He appealed to the US to rise above partisan "close ranks as Americans and get on with the job to be done."—United Press.

JACK OF ALL TRADES



It Was A Big Night In Moscow

MR K. DRINKS, SINGS & DANCES IN THE KREMLIN

By VINCENT BUIST

Moscow, Nov. 7. Mr Nikita Khrushchev, who was chief host in the Kremlin tonight at a 40th anniversary banquet, walked out from behind the table where the Presidents and Premiers were sipping wine to act as chorus leader in a Ukrainian folk song.



NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV
A deep grating voice

Disappears

Leyden, Holland, Nov. 7. A lead container with 90 sticks of radio-activity cobalt has disappeared from the Kamerlingh Onnes Physics Laboratory of Leyden University, it was announced today.

They added that the cobalt was "highly dangerous" to the life and health of people in its vicinity.—China Mail Special.

Seeks Asylum

Stockholm, Nov. 7. A Polish Air Force pilot landed in South Sweden this afternoon with a Russian MIG aircraft. Swedish authorities stated. He was understood to have asked for political asylum.—China Mail Special.

The Communist Party chief walked through the length of the famous St George's Hall in the Kremlin with its glittering alabaster coloured marble colonnades and its 2,000 wall candles to the Granovna Palace, where junior guests were dancing.

Shaking hands by the score, he was escorted by a group to a table where he raised a hand and launched into song.

He beat time and led the impromptu chorus of patriotic and partisan songs for a quarter of an hour.

The small device orchestra in the corner of the palace, which is part of the former Czar's Coronation Room, abandoned the "Blue Danube" and a piano, drum and cymbal provided the tempo for Mr Khrushchev's "concert."

THE BELLOWS

Even the tall bright general of security who normally accompanies Mr Khrushchev everywhere mellowed and joined in the final chorus.

The bellows of the singers drowned the noise of a salute of cannon going up in the Kremlin Park outside.

After a final ringing version of the Marseillaise—Ukrainian style—in his deep grating voice Mr Khrushchev moved off through the dancers. He stopped for a moment and hugged a middle-aged woman in a blue frock.

He danced a few steps with her before rejoining the Hordes of State who were still sipping their wine in splendid isolation.

He chatted to scores of old party friends on his way back through the main chamber, but ignored the Western guests.—Reuter.

In the presence of Lt-Gen. Farrell from the 6th Army Corps the old weather-vane on top of the church-tower in Kohnersreuth was replaced by a cross, donated by parson Joseph Nebel. The new cross was placed on top of the tower by means of a helicopter.—Keystone Photo.

EIFFEL TOWER GAINS THIRTY FEET

Paris, Nov. 7. The Eiffel Tower has gained 30 feet in height to serve TV fans in a much larger radius around Paris.

The inauguration of the new TV antenna and station at the top of the Tower took place yesterday with officials standing on the top platform of the Tower.

The six-month work on top of the Tower has also made possible the establishment of another antenna to distribute colour TV whenever the government decides to start it.—United Press.

A Mysterious Letter In Stalingrad

MACLEAN AND BURGESS MAY BE DEAD

Los Angeles, Nov. 7. Rep. Glenard P. Lipscomb (Republican-California) said today that a mysterious letter slipped into his pocket while he was visiting Stalingrad last October strongly hinted that one time British diplomats Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess had been liquidated in Russia.

Maclean and Burgess fled from Britain while under security guard on May 25, 1951, and dramatically resurfaced last year on February 11 in Moscow when newsmen were summoned to a press conference to hear them deny that they were ever Communist agents.

Lipscomb said the letter which now had been translated and handed to the "proper authorities" was placed in his overcoat pocket in the check-room of a Stalingrad hotel while he was having lunch there last October 9.

DESTRUCTION

He said he did not find the missive until after he had boarded a plane in Moscow for Stockholm later that same night.

The Congressman said the letter's author claimed to hate Communism and wanted to "promote its destruction," and thus had taken this means of offering to get certain "materials" to American Intelligence.

"Accidents are possible, such as those of the English diplomats Burgess, ... I did not remember the name of the second," read one part of the letter, according to Lipscomb.

The writer declaring that for the time being even he had to cloak his name and address in secrecy.—United Press.

Refuses To Disclose News Source

New York, Nov. 7. Federal Judge Sylvester J. Ryan today held a New York Herald Tribune columnist Marie Torre, in criminal contempt for refusing to disclose a news source.

After the ruling Judge Ryan adjourned further hearing on the case until Tuesday.

Miss Torre was subpoenaed as a witness for actress Judy Garland in the latter's \$1,385,353 libel and breach of contract suit against the Columbia Broadcasting System. Miss Torre was instructed by the court to name the CBS executive who was the source of information which allegedly libelled Miss Garland.—United Press.

United States Rejects Soviet Idea

Washington, Nov. 7. The State Department today rejected the idea of a "high-level" meeting between the United States and the Soviet Union to settle outstanding problems.

A State Department spokesman, commenting on a speech made in Moscow yesterday by the Soviet Communist Party chief Nikita Khrushchev, said "with respect to Khrushchev's suggestion of a high level meeting between the United States and the USSR to settle outstanding problems," that the US position was the following:

"The United States has emphasized on every occasion that high level meetings of any kind are desirable only if there are reasonable grounds for expecting they would bring beneficial results and that no responsible and interested countries would share in them."

SCOFFED AT

Khrushchev in his speech suggested a meeting of leaders of "Socialist and Capitalist countries" to promote peaceful coexistence and rule out war as a means of settling international problems.

The spokesman scoffed at Khrushchev's assertion that the Soviet Union was moving inevitably toward Communism. "The spokesman said: 'The psychological exploitation of scientific achievements and the periodic intimidation campaigns cannot obscure the fact that the basic human urge is for Democracy and freedom, within the Soviet sphere as well as outside.'—France-Press."

THE MOON

Mombasa, Nov. 7. A partial eclipse of the moon caused scores of people here to telephone the local newspaper office tonight asking if the Russians had landed there.—China Mail Special.

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